

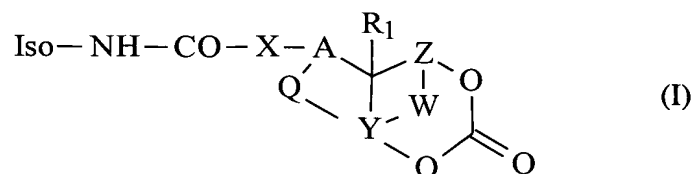
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

23. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates of formula 1 below:



in which:

- Iso is a polyisocyanate residue after conversion of at least one isocyanate function;
- X represents an atom or a group of atoms resulting from the reaction of a compound bearing a -XH group, optionally after decarboxylation, with the isocyanate function;
- A represents a bond or a linear, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents H or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;
- Q is absent or represents an oxygen or sulfur atom or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;

- Z represents a bond or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;
  - Y represents a bond or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;
  - W is absent or represents a bond, an oxygen or sulfur atom or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A; and
  - Q being absent when Y or A represents a bond and W or A being absent when Y or Z represents a bond;
- with the proviso that Z and Y do not simultaneously represent a bond.

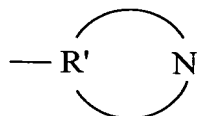
24. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, in which -X is chosen from the group consisting of:

-O,

-S,

=N,

-NR, in which R represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon-based group containing from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group,

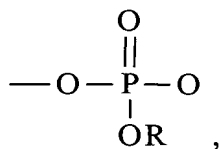


in which R' represents a 4- to 10-membered optionally substituted hydrocarbon chain optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group, the chain R' forming with NH a nitrogen ring,

-CO-NR,

-NR-COO,

-COO,



-A'-

-A'-COO-

wherein A' is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon-based chain comprising from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group,

-NH-CO-NH, and

-NH-CO-NR, wherein

R is as defined above.

25. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein X represents an oxygen atom.

26. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein A represents a  $-\text{CH}_2-$  group.

27. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein Y represents a  $-\text{CH}_2-$  group.

28. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein Z represents a bond or  $-\text{CH}_2-$ .

29. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein W and Q represent a bond.

30. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, which include a crosslinking functional group comprising a cyclic carbonate formed by reaction of a vicinal diol or trimethylolpropane, with an activated carbonylating agent.

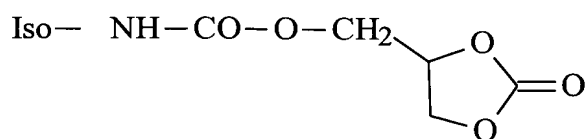
31. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 30, wherein the vicinal diol is chosen from glycerol, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, or 1,9,10-trihydroxy-octadecane.

32. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 30, wherein the activated carbonylating agent is chosen from carbonyldiimidazole, carbonylbis(1,2,4-triazole), carbonylbis(methyl ethyl ketoxime or N,N'-disuccinimidyl carbonate.

33. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, including a crosslinking functionality derived from glyceryl carbonate, succinic acid glyceryl carbonate monoester, glutaric acid glyceryl carbonate monoester, trimethylol propane carbonate, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid carbonate or 1,9,10-trihydroxy-octadecane carbonate.

34. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 33, wherein the crosslinking functional group is obtained by reacting one isocyanate function with glyceryl carbonate or a fatty acid carbonate or ester thereof.

35. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, of the formula:



36. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, having a molecular weight of less than 7500.

37. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, further comprising at least one additional unmodified isocyanate function and/or at least one other isocyanate function masked with a masking agent or a mixture of thermolabile masking agents.

38. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 37, wherein the masking agent is selected from optionally substituted imidazoles, pyrazoles, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole, lactams, phenols or oximes.

39. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 37, wherein the unmodified isocyanate function(s) are masked by at least two different masking agents.

40. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 37, wherein at least two different masking agents are selected such that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage of masking agent unblocking first at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{percentage of masking agent unblocking last at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

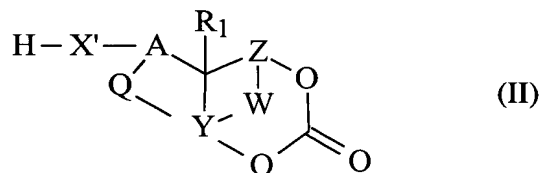
is greater than 4/3.

41. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 40, wherein the masking agents are, respectively, an oxime and a triazole.

42. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, derived from polyisocyanates selected from the group consisting of:

compounds having at least one isocyanurate group,  
 compounds having at least one uretidinedione group,  
 compounds having at least one carbamate group,  
 compounds having at least one allophanate group,  
 compounds having at least one ester group,  
 compounds having at least one urea function,  
 compounds having at least one iminocyclooxadiazinedione function,  
 compounds having at least one cyclooxadiazinetrione function,  
 compounds having at least one masked isocyanate group, and  
 compounds comprising a combination of at least one of the aforementioned groups.

43. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein at least one isocyanate function is modified with a compound of formula II:



in which X' represents X or X-COO, X being as specified above, and wherein at least 1% up to 99% by weight, of isocyanate functions are masked with at least one masking group and from 0 to 99% by weight, are free isocyanate functions.

44. (New) Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 43, comprising diisocyanate derivatives wherein at least some of the isocyanate functions are modified with a compound of formula II, and at least 1% by weight, of isocyanate functions are modified with at least one masking group.

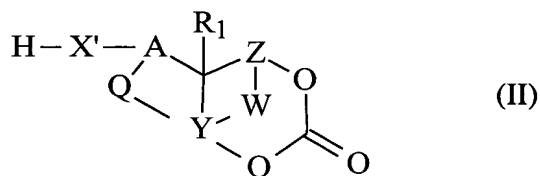
45. (New) Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 23, comprising mixtures of polyfunctional isocyanate tricondensates derived from the (cyclo)trimerization of three isocyanate monomer molecules and optionally other monomers and comprising an isocyanurate and/or biuret ring and of allophanates, and/or dimers wherein at least some of the isocyanate functions are modified with a crosslinking group.

46. (New )Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 23, comprising physical mixtures of several polyfunctional isocyanate tricondensates, with allophanates, uretidinediones or dimers, wherein said modified polyisocyanates comprise from 100% to 1% by weight of isocyanate functions masked with a masking group.

47. (New) Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 43, comprising isocyanates modified with a compound of formula II having free isocyanate groups and/or masked isocyanate groups and allophanate and/or uretidinedione groups.

48. (New) Process for preparing a modified stable polyisocyanate according to claim 23, comprising the following steps:

a) reacting at least one isocyanate comprising a polyisocyanate and/or a compound having at least one group selected from carbamate, urea, biuret, uretidinedione, isocyanurate, urethane or allophanate, with a compound of formula II:

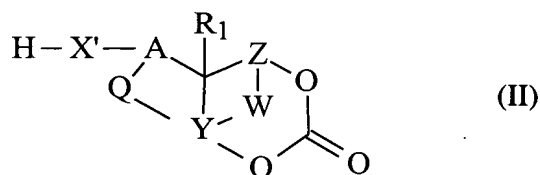


in which  $R_1$ , A, Q, Y, Z and W have the same meanings as above, and  $X'$  represents X or  $X-COO$ , X being as specified above; and

b) isolating the product obtained.

49. (New) Process for preparing a modified polyisocyanate according to claim 23, having masked isocyanate functions, the process comprising, in any order:

a<sub>1</sub>) reaction of an isocyanate, comprising a polyisocyanate and/or a compound having a group selected from carbamate, urea, biuret, uretidinedione, isocyanate, urethane or allophanate, with a compound of general formula II:



in which R<sub>1</sub>, A, Q, Y, Z and W have the same meanings as above, and X' represents X or X-COO, X being as specified above; and

b) simultaneously or successively reacting with at least one masking compound;  
or

a<sub>2</sub>) simultaneous reaction of an isocyanate with a compound of formula II and at least one masking compound; and

c) isolation of the product obtained.

50. (New) Polyisocyanate compositions consisting essentially of a mixture comprising at least 1% and not more than 99% of a modified stable polyisocyanate according to claim 23, predominantly bearing a crosslinking group and at least 1% and not more than 99% of another polyisocyanate modified stable polyisocyanate according to claim 23, predominantly bearing a crosslinking group and/or another molecule derived from a diisocyanate bearing free and/or masked isocyanate functions and containing no crosslinking groups.

51. (New) A method for the preparation of nonexpanded thin coatings, comprising using as a reactant an effective amount of the compound according to claim 23.

52. (New) A method for the preparation of nonexpanded thin coatings, comprising using as a reactant an effective amount of the compound according to claim 23 to form crosslinkable prepolymers, after opening the crosslinking group with a reagent.

53. (New) A method for the preparation of nonexpanded thin coatings according to claim 52, wherein the reagent is chosen from compounds with alcohol functions, primary or secondary amine functions, heterocyclic nitrogen compounds containing a reactive hydrogen atom, oximes or phenols.

54. (New) A method for the preparation of nonexpanded thin coatings according to claim 52, wherein the reagent is chosen from aqueous ammonia, primary or secondary amines, nitrogen heterocycles or salts thereof.

55. (New) Polymers and/or reticulates based on modified stable polyisocyanates as claimed in claim 23.

56. (New) A method for the preparation of polycondensates and reticulates useful as coatings, comprising reacting an effective amount of a modified stable polyisocyanate as claimed in claim 23 with at least one nucleophilic co-reagent.

57. (New) A method according to claim 56, wherein the nucleophilic co-reagent comprises at least one amine.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the amine comprises a di- or poly-amine.

59. (New) Composition comprising modified stable polyisocyanates as claimed in claim 23, together with at least one compound containing labile hydrogen.